

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JANUARY 21, 2021

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

FROM: MARGARET ORLANDO & LAURA DURHAM, DIVISION CHIEFS
RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION

SUBJECT: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION DIVISION UPDATE ITEM

All Recreation programs and events are modified to meet COVID-19 guidelines and best practices. All participants are screened for symptoms and must wear masks, physical distancing is required, and capacity is significantly reduced.

Program Wrap-Ups

- 'Tis the season to keep traditions ALIVE! Despite the circumstances we are still facing, **TR Achieving Greatness** participants enjoyed decorating and celebrating the holidays. Even though they were unable to perform our annual winter festivities, participants decorated the center to bring in the spirit and engaged in holiday activities and crafts. They received toys from Toys for Tots and was able to provide gifts before the holiday break.



- The Classes and Camps Section provided **Winter Break Programs**, including Tiny Chefs Restaurant Creation Camp (located at the Durant Center), Roblox and Imaginative Game Design Camp and Lacrosse Camp (both located at the Charles Barrett Recreation Center). Overall, we welcomed 21 kids into our programs before the Christmas holiday.

- Patrick Henry's **Flip First Tumbling** ran on Saturdays in December 2020. This program is for all skill levels to improve balance and agility, and learn tumble techniques through fun drills, games, and interactive demonstrations.



- December 11, the **Patrick Henry Modified Out of School Time Program** performed their Holiday Program for fellow classmates and Patrick Henry Recreation Center staff. Each Huddle performed a Christmas song. After their performances, all Huddles participated in a holiday craft, followed by Santa Toy Pick Up. The children were encouraged to wear holiday clothing, but it was not required. They had a great time. The toys were provided by the Toys for Tots. The Patrick Henry Modified Out of School Time Program had pajama day on December 18.



- Patrick Henry Recreation Center continued to run **Walk and Fit Training and Body Part Aerobics**. Both popular programs were modified to meet all COVID requirements and limited reduced the class size. These programs provide adults and seniors options to safely exercise and stay fit.

- Charles Houston hosted **Winter Funderland**. Participants engaged in a themed holiday arts and crafts activity, made gingerbread houses, and enjoyed taking family photos with some of our themed decorations.



Program Updates

- Winter Sports programs began the week of January 9. **Alexandria Titans Indoor Track** teaches participants to develop techniques used in track & field events with an emphasis on teamwork, sportsmanship, and healthy competition. **Lil' Sprinters Track** promotes physical fitness and helps develop skills such as running, jumping, and throwing for children ages 3-5 years. Even though the season is on hold players can work on the fundamentals of the game in **Basketball Skills and Drills**. Participants will learn the basics of passing, shooting, dribbling, offense, and defense.
- **TR Achieving Greatness Winter Session** will take place January 4 through March 13, 2021.
- Seniors at Patrick Henry will socialize and paint their work of art with their friends and others while enjoying a cup of coffee, tea, or juice in a relaxing, socially distanced environment at a **Senior Sip and Paint** class.
- Patrick Henry's **Senior Stretching** is a low impact stretching class designed for seniors to improve range of motion, increase circulation, decrease potential injury, and improve rest.
- **Hip Hop Fitness and Circuit Training** is a cardiovascular fat burning workout for Teens & Adults at Patrick Henry that will aid in firming and sculpting their body through hip hop dance and timed interval circuit training on a cardio and weight machine circuit. Increase endurance, burn calories, strengthen, and tone muscles and increase flexibility.
- **HITT and Cardio** is a workout geared to get the heart pumping. This 45 -minute class at Charles Houston will include exercises like boxing movements, jump rope combinations, and mixed aerobics with resistance trainings. This class is ideal for teens and young adults.

Upcoming Events

- Charles Houston will host a **Love Quest** activity in February. Participants will bond, build, and battle with a loved one. Join us for a round of friendly, competitive couples' activities. Games will include minute to win it challenges, corn-holes, relays and more. May the best love win! Light refreshments will be served.
- Looking for something fun to do on Friday Nights? Join Charles Houston for a glow in the dark twist workout class. **Pop-up Fitness Party** instruction will feature low and high impact cardio with the latest music mixes/beats. Get your heart rate up and boost your cardio endurance while glowing and having fun in the dark.

Special Features

- Due to current COVID guidelines for recreational sports, RPCA is not organizing indoor sports leagues. To provide more outlets for physical fitness, RPCA issued court permits to ASA for futsal practices and games. Organized futsal activities are only allowed during posted permitted times. Tennis & pickleball users have priority during open play periods. There will be temporary futsal lines on courts being used for futsal. Field monitors are still circulating throughout the City to ensure permitted groups and open play participants are following current COVID guidelines. Monitors are scheduled Monday - Friday from 5 until 10 p.m. and Saturday & Sunday from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m.
- RPCA continues to partner with **ACPS on virtual classrooms** for students from Title 1 schools. Patrick Henry and Mt. Vernon Recreation Centers also continue to host several classrooms for community members who met specific criteria including essential worker status and financial need. RPCA staff are working closely with ACPS to determine how to move forward with these classroom groups when ACPS goes to a hybrid schedule where children attend school 2 days a week and are virtual 3 days per week.

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JANUARY 21, 2021

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

FROM: OSCAR MENDOZA, DIVISION CHIEF - PARK OPERATIONS, RPCA

SUBJECT: PARK OPERATIONS MONTHLY UPDATE

1. PARK AND FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

a. Park Maintenance

- Continued to perform deferred maintenance of trails, parks and athletic fields
- Introduced two new brining units into our snow response fleet. Expanding brining operation to bridges, overpasses and trails.
- Continued to respond to graffiti removal request.

b. Park Facilities Maintenance

- Continued monitoring of winterized locations. Inspecting heaters and heat wraps. Adding antifreeze as needed.
- Made emergency repairs to frozen valve at Mt. Vernon drinking fountain.
- Began light inspections and repairs.
- Preliminary planning for Phase V of Maxicom.

2. URBAN FORESTRY & HORTICULTURE

a. Urban Forestry

- Concluded fall tree planting program with plantings in Fort Ward, Ben Brenman Park, and along Eisenhower Ave.
- Began removing stakes from past plantings and scouting locations for spring.
- Renewed application for to remain an Arbor Day Foundation Tree City USA.



New Brining units.



Graffiti Removal.



Damaged valve.

b. Horticulture

- New gardeners have been selected for open plots at both Chinquapin and Holmes Run Community Gardens. Invoices have been issued to the new gardeners for payment.

3. NATURAL LANDS MANAGEMENT

[Like other City depts. and staff, Natural Lands Management has been practicing social distancing and other safety measures during the coronavirus crisis to ensure the safety of residents, teammates, and the communities we serve. Still, we continued to safely accomplish many of our core, essential duties and meet targeted goals.]

a. Invasive Plant Management and Ecological Restoration

- Staff removed Oriental Bittersweet, Porcelain-berry, English Ivy, and other non-native invasive plants from Dora Kelley Nature Park, Chinquapin Park, Forest Park, Monticello Park, and Beverly Park.
- Staff supervised our contractor, Invasive Plant Control (IPC), in the removal of thousands of Callery Pear, Porcelain-berry, Oriental Bittersweet, White Mulberry, Bush Honeysuckle, and others at Ben Brenman Park (including the banks of Backlick Run).

b. Cooperative Initiatives

- On December 12, 2020, City Natural Resource Manager supervised Christopher Bright's Eagle Scout Project to dig out 4 large, highly invasive Crack Willow trees at Four Mile Run Park and replant with native Black Willow. The project also designed and planted a small, native bioswale garden at the storm drain with 24 native shrubs, wildflowers, and grasses, as well as replaced one of the native trees in a nearby grove.
- On December 16, 2020, City Natural Resource Manager gave a virtual Zoom presentation on "Maryland's Endangered Ecosystems" to the Maryland Sierra Club Endangered Species Workgroup.
- Staff met onsite with the Friends of Monticello Park to discuss stewardship issues at the park.

c. Environmental Review

- Staff reviewed the Forest Conversion Area Maintenance Plan for Fort Ward Park Tasks 1 and 2.
- Staff reviewed the Hensley Park Renovation plans.

4. JEROME "BUDDIE" FORD NATURE CENTER



Pitch Pine sprouts on trunk.



Partridgeberry fruits.



Little Adventures getting ready for their hike.

a. Programs/Updates:

The Nature Center had 87 visitors this month and provided 2 impromptu programs for 8 of them. Throughout the month we conducted a total of 14 programs for 93 participants and saw a total of 180 people.

Outreach:

Educators conducted a total of 13 in-person programs for 4 recreation centers (Chick Armstrong, Polk Elementary, Patrick Henry and Mt Vernon) seeing a total of 87 students and recreation staff. This month's theme was all about winter and how animals adapt and survive. Everyone enjoyed making their own ice cream cone bird feeders to bring home with them.

Onsite:

We hosted our last session of the fall Little Adventures series, where we learned about the birds of Dora Kelley Nature Park. The children practiced using binoculars while we hiked through the park looking for birds. We also created bird seed suet cakes for the kids to bring home for the birds that reside in their backyards.

b. Volunteers Hours:

- One volunteer worked 12 hours this month assisting with animal care.

c. Noteworthy:

- There have been an unusual number of mallards in the marsh at Dora Kelley this winter. We counted 5 males and 3 females just the other day.



Adventure friend practicing with binoculars.

City of Alexandria, Virginia

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DATE: JANUARY 21, 2021

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

FROM: JACK BROWAND, DIVISION CHIEF *JB*
PARK PLANNING, CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT & WATERFRONT

SUBJECT: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION DIVISION UPDATE ITEM 5
PARK PLANNING, CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT & WATERFRONT

Capital Improvement Project Update

Project Managers: Bethany Znidersic, Principal Planner, Capital Development and Jack Browand, Division Chief

- **Awarded** - Armistead L. Boothe Park Synthetic Field Conversion Project Design Contract
- **Awarded** - James T. Luckett Restroom Construction Contract
- **Awarded** - Nicolas Colasanto Interactive Fountain Design Contract
- **Awarded** - Multi-Court Athletic Light Replacement (William Ramsay & Armistead Boothe)
- **In Progress** - Landover Park ADA Access Ramp design
- **In Progress** - Fence Installation, Repair and Removal ITB
- **In Progress** - Swimming Pools Maintenance and Repairs ITB
- **Re-bid** - Tree Planting Invitation to Bid (ITB) (anticipated release this winter)
- **Submitted** - Fort Ward Park Picnic Shelter ADA Access Construction ITB
- **Submitted** - Landscape Architect of Record Request for Qualifications (RFQU)

Simpson Park Dog Park Renovation Update

Project Managers: Bethany Znidersic, Principal Planner, Park Planning and Matt Landes, Division Chief, Department of Project Implementation

The Simpson Park Dog Park Renovation project will address existing erosion and drainage issues at the dog park. As identified in the Citywide Parks Improvements Plan, the dog park is one of the most popular fenced dog parks in the City. As such, it receives extensive daily. The revised plans were posted to the website for final community comments through January 8. The plans will be finalized and the construction procurement process is in progress.

Open Space Steering Committee Update

Project Managers: Judy Lo, Acting Principal Planner, Park Planning and Ana Vicinanzo, Urban Planner II, Park Planning

On Wednesday, December 9 the Open Space Steering Committee (Committee) held its fourth

meeting. The meeting was primarily discussion-based and focused on defining what is publicly accessible open space. Using the information collected through the discussion, staff will continue to refine the definition for publicly accessible open space, while also beginning to determine purpose, goals, and characteristics of publicly accessible open space. For more information about the Open Space Policy Plan and the planning process, visit: <https://www.alexandriava.gov/89491>.

Consideration of the Renaming of 3550 Commonwealth Avenue Park

Project Managers: Judy Lo, Acting Principal Planner, Park Planning and Ana Vicinanza, Urban Planner II, Park Planning

On December 15, the City Council Naming Committee met to consider the renaming of 3550 Commonwealth Avenue Park to Shirley Tyler Park. The City Council Naming committee unanimously recommended to rename the park to Shirley Tyler Park. Following the meeting and in response to the Naming Committee's desire to recognize the recommendation of Unity Park, a community member suggested modifying the park name to Shirley Tyler Unity Park. The City Council Naming Committee will hold a meeting to consider the modified name as presented and provide a recommendation for final name adoption to City Council in February or March 2021.

January 21, 2021 Discussion Items

- **Joseph Hensley Park Renovation Plan Amendment - Public Hearing**

Project Managers: Bethany Znidersic, Principal Planner, Capital Development and Jack Browand, Division Chief
Attachment 1

Attachments

1. Joseph Hensley Park Renovation Plan Amendment
2. AL Boothe Athletic Field Conversion
3. Colasanto Interactive Fountain
4. Park Facility Standards Manual
5. Community Matching Fund Extension
6. Wilkes Street Park Plan
7. Upland Park Plan

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JANUARY 21, 2021

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

FROM: BETHANY ZNIDERSIC, PRINCIPAL PLANNER
CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

THROUGH: JACK BROWAND, DIVISION CHIEF ^{9B}
PARK PLANNING, CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT & WATERFRONT

ITEM 2: JOSEPH HENSLEY PARK RENOVATION PLAN AMENDMENT

ISSUE: Park and Recreation Commission consideration of the Joseph Hensley Park Renovation Design Plan Amendment.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Park and Recreation Commission provide a written recommendation to the Planning Commission for consideration at their March 2, 2021 public hearing.

BACKGROUND: In the summer of 2012, the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities (RPCA) began a multi-year process with the public to develop a Citywide Parks Improvement Plan. The goal of this initiative was to study and understand the existing conditions and future needs for Alexandria's parks that are over 10-acres, municipally owned, and have multiple uses. The Plan was endorsed by the Park and Recreation Commission on April 10, 2014. The Plan includes 14 recommendations for Joseph Hensley Park. The park is funded for design through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and will be implemented in phases using CIP funding.

RPCA presented the Joseph Hensley Park Plan Amendment to the Park and Recreation Commission on December 17, 2020. The presentation included information on the 2014 Citywide Parks Improvement Plan for the park, the site constraints and the proposed amendments to the 2014 Plan. The amendments address the constraints, yet still deliver the intent of the recommendations.

DISCUSSION: The revised plan proposes to amend the original 2014 plan in the following ways:

- 1) To achieve the goal of Recommendation 1 for adult sport standard field dimensions and adhere to state requirements protecting natural resources, the two lower diamond fields on the east end of the site have been replaced with one regulation sized co-ed softball

field. The field is shifted north, closer to Eisenhower Avenue, to avoid further encroachments on the natural resources.

- 2) To achieve the goal of Recommendation 3 to convert the rectangular field a regulation sized synthetic turf field, the rectangular field location shifted north and east on the site to fit within the property boundary. The new field dimensions are regulation for soccer at 300 feet by 165 feet, and larger than the existing 300-foot by 150-foot field. The new field location reduced the additional parking proposed between the two upper fields in Recommendation 4.
- 3) To achieve the goal of Recommendation 4 to provide additional parking, parking spaces were added to the new lot created near the park entrance. The additional parking cannot be accommodated in the upper lot due to the location shift of the rectangular field.
- 4) The new play space identified in Recommendation 8 is included in the plan and is shifted to the top of the hill near the restrooms to accommodate a larger parking lot near the park entrance. A second park shelter is included in the plan and is shifted to the east side of the lower softball field.
- 5) The new parking lot identified in Recommendation 10 is included in the plan and is expanded to add the additional parking originally anticipated in the upper parking lot.
- 6) Recommendation 11 is eliminated due to the encroachment in the RPA, the site line constraints next to the Eisenhower Bridge and the softball field location changes to achieve Recommendation 1.
- 7) To achieve the goal of Recommendation 13, the Equipment Storage and Maintenance Area was redesigned in its current location. The 2014 proposed location encroaches on the RPA and does not comply with state regulations.

The plan was posted for public comment on the City website on December 14, 2020. Following the presentation to the Park and Recreation Commission on December 17, an e-News release was sent on December 18, 2020 and comments were received through January 20, 2021.

Staff supports the proposed design and recommends that the amendments to the 2014 be adopted.

FISCAL IMPACT: The Joseph Hensley Park Renovation project is funded through the Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities Capital Improvement Program. Construction of the first phase is budgeted for \$3.4 million.

STAFF:

Jack Browand, Division Chief, Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities
Bethany Znidersic, Principal Planner, Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities
Mathew Landes, Division Chief, Department of Project Implementation

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JANUARY 21, 2021

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

FROM: BETHANY ZNIDERSIC, PRINCIPAL PLANNER
CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

THROUGH: JACK BROWAND, DIVISION CHIEF ⁹⁸
PARK PLANNING, CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT & WATERFRONT

ITEM 5: PARK PLANNING, CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT & WATERFRONT STAFF
REPORT - ARMISTEAD L. BOOTHE PARK FIELD RENOVATION UPDATE

ISSUE: Park and Recreation Commission consideration of the Armistead L. Boothe Park Field Renovation Update.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Park and Recreation Commission receive this staff report.

BACKGROUND: In May 2019 the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities (RPCA) requested a transfer of funding from the Patrick Henry Recreation Center project to the Athletic Fields CIP and to reprioritize FY2019 funding in the Athletic Fields CIP to upgrade the athletic facility at Armistead L. Boothe Park, 520 Cameron Station Boulevard. This request was a response to the delayed completion of the approved Patrick Henry synthetic turf field. The synthetic turf field at Patrick Henry is anticipated to be complete in FY2023 following the termination of the current swing space use.

The transfer request was approved by City Council in October 2019. The design solicitation was delayed due to COVID-19 and was awarded in November 2020. A. Morton Thomas and Associates, Inc. has been contracted to complete the community outreach, design work, and construction documents for this project.

DISCUSSION: The Armistead L. Boothe (Boothe) field upgrade will convert the existing natural grass diamond field with traditional dirt infield and natural grass overlay rectangular field to a full synthetic turf diamond field with synthetic turf overlay rectangular field. In addition, upgrades to the field lighting, dugouts, bleachers, scoreboard, and press box will be included in the project.

A 1998 Special Use Permit for the site approved the field, lights, parking and associated infrastructure. As such, an administrative process will be required to upgrade the field to

synthetic turf. The site has several environmental constraints, including the floodplain and two Resource Protection Areas (RPA). A special exception will be necessary to permit the field within the RPA.

Staff and the design team are preparing for a community meeting in early February to receive input on the 30% design. The project schedule anticipates a public hearing at the Environmental Policy Commission and Planning Commission in late spring/summer with construction starting in the fall 2021.

FISCAL IMPACT: The design and construction phases of the Armistead L. Boothe Park Field Renovation project are funded through the RPCA Capital Improvement Program. Maintenance will continue to be the responsibility of RPCA.

STAFF:

Jack Browand, Division Chief, Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities
Bethany Znidersic, Principal Planner, Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JANUARY 21, 2021

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

FROM: BETHANY ZNIDERSIC, PRINCIPAL PLANNER
CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

THROUGH: JACK BROWAND, DIVISION CHIEF *JB*
PARK PLANNING, CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT & WATERFRONT

ITEM 5: PARK PLANNING, CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT & WATERFRONT STAFF
REPORT - COLASANTO INTERACTIVE FOUNTAIN DESIGN UPDATE

ISSUE: Park and Recreation Commission consideration of the Colasanto Interactive Fountain Project Update.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Park and Recreation Commission receive this staff report.

BACKGROUND: In 2012, the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities (RPCA) completed an Aquatics Facilities Study. The study included a recommendation to convert the closed Colasanto Pool into an interactive fountain. In 2016, the City and the Del Ray Gateway group began a community visioning process to address this recommendation. A community survey and concept plan was completed, and funding was programmed into the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for FY2020 and FY2022.

DISCUSSION: A design contract for the Colasanto Interactive Fountain project was awarded in November. The project will address the recommendation of the 2012 Aquatic Study and install an interactive fountain within the footprint of the existing pool. The design team is currently conducting site analysis and survey work. The community engagement process is anticipated to begin in February and the construction documents are anticipated to be complete at the end of 2021.

FISCAL IMPACT: The Colasanto Interactive Fountain project is primarily funded through the RPCA Capital Improvement Program. The project design is underway. Construction funding is budgeted in FY 2022. Funding raised by the Del Ray Gateway group will be included in the construction budget. Maintenance will be the responsibility of RPCA.

STAFF:
Bethany Znidersic, Principal Planner, Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JANURARY 21, 2021

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

FROM: JACK BROWAND, DIVISION CHIEF *JB*
PARK PLANNING, CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT & WATERFRONT

THROUGH: JAMES SPENGLER, DIRECTOR
RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

ITEM 5: PARK FACILITY STANDARDS MANUAL (2021 UPDATE)

ISSUE: Park and Recreation Commission receipt of the Park Facility Standards Manual update for 2021.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Park and Recreation Commission receive the revised Park Facility Standards Manual (2021 update).

BACKGROUND: The Park Facility Standards Manual (Standards) establishes minimum design, construction and performance expectations for the City's park features. The intent of the Standards is to inform and guide park and open space planning, capital improvements and capital maintenance, and to sustain life-cycle resource investments in public space. The Standards are a reference instrument for selection of materials, fixtures, and systems. The Standards integrate City criteria, industry standards, and applicable Federal/State/City requirements into a primary-single source document. Anticipated benchmarks for performance, function, safety, environmental impact, and anticipated maintenance/life-cycle resource needs are established by each Standard.

Established in Summer 2012, the Park Facility Standards Manual is a living document that is updated and re-evaluated coincident with advancements in industry, changes in the City's park and open space system, and recreational needs.

DISCUSSION: Planning for the 2021 update began in mid-2019. The project team consisted of an interdepartmental group from Transportation and Environmental Services, General Services and Planning and Zoning. Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities staff included representatives from Recreation Services, Park Operations, Marina Staff, Waterfront Staff, and Park Planning. External stakeholders, such as sports affiliates, also provided input on sport specific standards.

The 2021 update of the Park Facility Standards Manual included review and revision of each standard to reflect current industry trends and technological advancements. Many new standards were added during the update, such as LED lighting options and permeable surfaces.

The standards are organized according to nine categories: Site Furnishings, Fences and Walls, Surfacing, Park Structures, Playgrounds, Ball Courts and Athletic Fields, Utility Systems, Signs and Marina Facilities/Waterfront.

FISCAL IMPACT: The Standards are anticipated to reduce operating costs by standardizing park equipment, elements and materials. Lifespan and durability were major considerations in the development of the standards. The Standards also establish anticipated life cycle replacement timelines to assist in the proactive development of capital improvement planning.

DOCUMENT: The Park Facilities Standard can be found at the following link:

<https://www.alexandriava.gov/recreation/info/default.aspx?id=18078>

STAFF:

Bethany Znidersic, Principal Planner, Capital Development
Judy Lo, Acting Principal Planner, Park Planning
Daniel Unkle, Urban Planner II, Park Planning

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JANUARY 21, 2021

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

FROM: JACK BROWAND, DIVISION CHIEF ⁹⁸
PARK PLANNING, CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT & WATERFRONT

THROUGH: JAMES SPENGLER, DIRECTOR
RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

ITEM 6.a.: EWALD PARKOUR FUNDRAISING EXTENSION REQUEST

ISSUE: Park and Recreation Commission consideration of a request to extend the fundraising period an additional six months for the Ewald Parkour project, an FY2020 Community Matching Fund awardee.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Park and Recreation Commission approved the request to extend the fundraising period for the Ewald Parkour project an additional six months to June 30, 2021.

BACKGROUND: Due to the Covid-19 emergency, RPCA approved a six-month fundraising extension for all FY 2020 Community Matching Fund awardees ending on December 31, 2020. Typically, groups must raise their funds within one year of the award date. In June 2019, RPCA awarded a matching grant of \$25,000 to [Jonas Neihardt of the Ewald Parkour Park project](#). Mr. Neihardt proposed to design and install a parkour space located in the former tennis court area of Ewald Park as approved in the 2018 [Ewald Park Plan Amendment](#).

DISCUSSION: Currently Mr. Neihardt has raised \$11,929.36 of the \$25,000 goal. In December, Mr. Neihardt applied for a Trans Urban grant of \$15,000, and recently received a \$1,000 donation. Mr. Neihardt will continue to reach out to donors this winter and spring. Future fundraising events include Spring to Action Alexandria scheduled for April 28, 2021.

FISCAL IMPACT: No fiscal impact is anticipated. After June 30, 2021, the City will match the amount fundraised and will begin phased implementation of the project, to the extent possible with the available funding.

STAFF:

Judy Lo, Acting Principal Planner, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities
Lucresha Murphy, PARKnersip Manager, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities

City of Alexandria, Virginia

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DATE: JANUARY 21, 2021

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

FROM: JACK BROWAND, DIVISION CHIEF *JB*
PARK PLANNING, CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT & WATERFRONT

THROUGH: JAMES SPENGLER, DIRECTOR
RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

ITEM 6.c: WILKES STREET PARK CONCEPT DESIGN

ISSUE: Park and Recreation Commission consideration of the Wilkes Street Park Concept Design.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Park and Recreation Commission (1) endorse the redesign of Wilkes Street Park and (2) provide a written recommendation to the Planning Commission and City Council for consideration at their February 2021 public hearings.

BACKGROUND: Wilkes Street Park, an existing 0.7-acre park, located adjacent to Heritage at Old Town will be redesigned and constructed as part of the Heritage at Old Town redevelopment process. The Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities (RPCA) has coordinated the park redesign and community engagement process. The developers are responsible for design and construction of the park improvements as part of their developer contribution requirements. City Council will approve the development proposals and conditions of approval in February 2021.

Over the summer, RPCA conducted a community survey asking the community what they would like the park to become. Using the information collected through the initial survey, two park designs were created. A second survey was then released asking the community to pick their preferred design and design elements. Using the information from both surveys, a final design was created.

Park Planning Process Schedule

- Preliminary Planning:
 - August 13, 2020: RPCA hosted a virtual kick-off meeting with the community.
 - August 14, 2020 – September 11: RPCA receives input on park design through online survey and public engagement.
- Planning Process:

- **September 17, 2020:** RPCA present the park project and survey results to the Park and Recreation Commission.
- **September 18, 2020 – October 16, 2020:** Using the public input, the developer design team prepare design options for the park.
- **November 5, 2020:** RPCA host a second community meeting with the applicant design proposals for the park.
- **November 6, 2020 – December 4, 2020:** A second online survey and public engagement is conducted asking for community feedback on the design options.
- **December 2020 – January 2021:** Developer design team prepare a final park design using community input collected.
- **January 21, 2021:** RPCA present final park design to the Park and Recreation Commission for public hearing.
- **February 18, 2021:** RPCA present final park design to the Park and Recreation Commission for endorsement.

New public art is also planned for the park. The final park concept design will inform what the public art could be and ensures the art is integrated into the overall park design. The Commission for the Arts recently selected the artist. In the coming weeks, the artwork will be developed through a public process consistent with the Public Art Policy.

DISCUSSION:

The park planning process¹ commenced in August 2020 with a virtual kick-off meeting held by RPCA and the posting of a survey for City and area residents to provide feedback on desired park design elements. In September, RPCA staff presented survey findings on resident preferences for the redesigned park at a public meeting and provided them to the applicant's landscape architect (Parker Rodriguez) to draft park concept schemes. Parker Rodriguez presented two options for concept park designs at a public meeting in November. RPCA provided a public survey link, and a concept design was selected based on community preference in December. The applicant has been refining the concept park design for presentation at a Park and Recreation Commission for initial feedback in January and will seek an endorsement from the Commission following an Public Hearing on February 18. The endorsed concept park design will be refined by Parker Rodriguez into construction-level drawings as a "Park Plan" that will be reviewed and approved administratively and that will run concurrently with the Final Site Plan review for the Heritage's development.

The Heritage developer is responsible for the Park Plan and construction drawings, site preparation, including utility and stormwater management work and preservation of existing trees, permitting and the construction of the shared-use path, plaza, landscaping, and site elements and structures. Based on the Heritage frontage to the park, the developer is responsible for three-quarters of park implementation. Construction for the park and surrounding buildings will be occurring in two phases. The developer will implement the full park plan for the west parcel with the construction of blocks 1 and 4 (phase 1). The east park parcel will be constructed with the redevelopment of Block 2 (phase 2), and will be a fully functional interim condition, with the addition of a new shared-use path and lighting. The east parcel park plan will be either fully constructed by the City with use of capital funding to be requested in upcoming budget

¹ Information on the Wilkes Street Park planning process can be found at <https://www.alexandriava.gov/116143>.

cycles and/or by the developer of the Olde Towne West redevelopment, based on the timing of their redevelopment project.²

At this time, construction is planned to occur at the end of 2021/early 2022 and is estimated to take two years for phase one and an additional two to three years for phase two.

FISCAL IMPACT: Design and construction of the park improvements and public art are funded with developer contributions. RPCA will be responsible for park maintenance. Annual maintenance costs will be identified through the planning process described above. At this time, it is anticipated that supplemental maintenance funding will be needed beginning Fiscal Year 2024.

STAFF:

Ana Vicinanza, Urban Planner II, Park Planning

Judy Lo, Acting Principal Planner, Park Planning

² In the case that the City secures funding to finish construction of the east park parcel, the City will seek a monetary contribution from the Olde Towne West redevelopment in lieu of in-kind construction.

City of Alexandria, Virginia

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DATE: JANUARY 21, 2021

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

FROM: JACK BROWAND, DIVISION CHIEF *JB*
PARK PLANNING, CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT & WATERFRONT

THROUGH: JAMES SPENGLER, DIRECTOR
RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

ITEM 6.d.: UPLAND PARK DESIGN

ISSUE: Presentation of the proposed Upland Park Design to the Park and Recreation Commission.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Park and Recreation Commission provide input on the proposed design for Upland Park.

BACKGROUND: The future 0.85-acre park is being designed and built by the Upland Park Developers and will be built in two phases concurrent with the development. The City currently owns .56 acres of the future parkland, located at 5143 Seminary Road. The remaining park acreage will be dedicated to the City through the redevelopment process. Phase one includes the construction of the first half of the future Upland Parkland, which include a play space, a promenade, seat walls, and landscaping. Phase two includes the dog run and extension of the promenade, seating areas, and plaza.

The park design is consistent with the Beauregard Small Area Plan recommendations, with additional features and details expanded about within the subsequent Beauregard Design Guidelines and the approval of Coordinated Development of District #21.

DISCUSSION: Upland Park's design and construction is a condition of the Upland Park Development which includes residential, commercial/office, and open space.

The park design includes a mix of amenities, such as a naturalistic play area with vertical climbing elements, a dog run, seating that is built into the site, a central lawn, a walking loop, and a promenade.

The park will be built in two phases with interim improvements (multiuse path, benches, and lawn area) being constructed during Phase 1 to make the park useable between the two phases. The first phase of the park is located on the City property, while phase two is located on private property with a public access easement.

Upland Park Development will be docketed for Planning Commission and City Council public hearings in March 2021.

Planning Process Schedule

The Beauregard Design Advisory Committee (BDAC) reviewed the project for compliance with the Beauregard Small Area Plan and Beauregard Design Guidelines at three (virtual) public meetings on July 27, 2020, September 21, 2020, and October 26, 2020.

FISCAL IMPACT: Design and construction of the park improvements are funded with developer contributions. RPCA will be responsible for park maintenance for the section of the park-on-park land, park maintenance on private land with a public access easement is the responsibility of the developer and subsequent HOA. Annual maintenance costs will be identified through the planning process described above. At this time, it is anticipated that supplemental maintenance funding will be needed beginning Fiscal Year 2024.

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